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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,610	11/09/2001	Eric C. Hannah	042390.P13119	7624
7590 03/11/2004				
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman Seventh Floor 12400 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030		EXAMINER TRAN, MY CHAU T		
		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 1639		

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20040309

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

The preliminary amendment filed on 2/12/04 was not entered because entry of the amendment would unduly interfere with the preparation of the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.115(b). The examiner spent a significant amount of time on the preparation of an Office action before the preliminary amendment was received. On the date of receipt of the amendment, the examiner had completed the claim analysis, the search of prior art of all pending claims, and the drafting of the Office action.

Furthermore, entry of the preliminary amendment would require significant additional time on the preparation of the Office action. Specifically, entry of the preliminary amendment would require the examiner to revise the Office action extensively to address the new issues raised in the preliminary amendment and conduct prior art search in another classification area that was not previously searched and required.

A responsive reply (under 37 CFR 1.111 or 37 CFR 1.113 as appropriate) to this Office action must be timely filed to avoid abandonment.

If this is not a final Office action, applicant may wish to resubmit the amendment along with a responsive reply under 37 CFR 1.111 to ensure proper entry of the amendment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Chau T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-0810. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday: 8:00-2:30; Tuesday-Thursday: 7:30-5:00; Friday: 8:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Wang can be reached on 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mct
March 9, 2004


ANDREW WANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600